

Washington, DC – U.S. Congressman Ciro D. Rodriguez (TX-23) voted for HR 4061, the Cybersecurity Enhancement Act of 2009, which passed the House Thursday by an overwhelming, bipartisan majority. HR 4061 will help ensure a strategic plan for federal cybersecurity research & development and strengthen public-private partnerships to help train the next generation of cybersecurity professionals.

Congressman Rodriguez successfully worked with Congressman Alcee Hastings (FL-23) to amend the bill to will ensure that minority-serving institutions of higher education are adequately represented in public-private cybersecurity partnerships. That includes Hispanic-serving institutions like

UTSA, St. Mary's University and Our Lady of the Lake University in San Antonio; Sul Ross University in Alpine and UTEP in El Paso.

“The world we live in is changing,” said Congressman Rodriguez. “No longer are security threats limited to physical buildings and infrastructure. Our cyber networks and the information they carry are vulnerable too. This bill, as well as my amendment, will create a structure to research, train and prepare our communities for threats and attacks.”

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HR 4061 calls for:

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Prioritizing federal cybersecurity R& D activities

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Developing a skilled cybersecurity workforce

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Promoting public-private partnerships in cybersecurity

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Promoting awareness and education of cybersecurity

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Coordinate international cybersecurity technical standards

Congressman Rodriguez has become a leader in pursuing legislative efforts to bolster the cybersecurity industry in San Antonio and nationwide. He recently introduced

HR 4507

, which creates a consortium to train and prepare first responders to deal with cyber attacks. And he met in January with Major General Webber, who two wings and Air Force Network Operations at Lackland AFB, and one wing at Robins AFB in Georgia.

Rodriguez, who sits on the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Homeland Security, also has been a leader in securing annual funding for UTSA's Cybersecurity programs and hosted House Armed Services Subcommittee Chairwoman Loretta Sanchez for a cyber roundtable in

San Antonio in December.

“San Antonio is already well ahead of the curve on becoming a national leader in research, preparation and implementation of cybersecurity measures in this new world,” Congressman Rodriguez said. “With the cooperation of our whole community, we will continue to build on that role and become a model for the entire nation.”

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